## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 SSO-00 /106 W

P 111429Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8878 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA USINT HAVANA AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS:PBOR, MILI, ET, SO

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF SOMALI TROOP WITHDRAWAL

- 1. CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF SOMALI ANNOUNCEMENT ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL IS LIMITED TO SHORT TASS ARTICLES DATELINED NAIROBI AND ADDIS ABABA MARCH 10. NAIROBI ARTICLE (MARCH 10 IZVESTIYA, MARCH 11 PRAVDA) NOTES OFFICIAL SOMALI ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONCLUDES ON A SLIGHTLY SKEPTICAL TONE BY STATING THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SOMALIA INTENDS TO WITHDRAW "ALL" SOMALI ARMED UNITS FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY.
- 2. ADDIS ABABA ARTICLE (PRAVDA AND KZ MARCH 11) REPORTS COMMENTS ON THE SOMALI ANNOUNCEMENT BY A "REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE ETHIOPIAN MFA. THE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT:
- -- SOMALI SIDE HAD LOST ALL HOPE AND HAD REALIZED THAT WAR WAS LOST:

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- -- A LOSING SIDE DOES NOT PROPOSE CONDITIONS (I.E. WITH REGARD TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL);
- -- QUESTION OF SELF DETERMINATION OF SOME ETHIOPIAN NATIONALITIES WILL BE DECIDED AS AN INTERNAL QUESTION AND NOT AS A POINT ON AGENDA FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

3. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF THIS LAST STATEMENT THROWS CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COLD WATER ON HOPE THAT SOMALIA MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISCUSS POLITICAL STATUS OF OGADEN POPULATION WITH ETHIOPIANS. TOON

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